GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2056
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
MOU WITH FRANCE
Jai Prakash Shri

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France to set up the first International Thermo-nuclear Energy Reactor (ITER) at Marseles region of France; and

(b) If so, the salient features thereof including the details of cooperation to be extended by India in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) The Government of India along with six other Parties, has signed a Joint Implementation Agreement on November 21, 2006 for establishing the ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation at St.Paul-les-Durance (Bouches-du-Rhone) near Marseles, France.The other six Parties to the agreement are European Union represented by the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of Japan, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America.

(b) The salient feature of ITER project is to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes, an essential feature of which would be achieving sustained fusion power generation.The aim of ITER project is to show that fusion could be used to generate electrical power and to gain the necessary data to design and operate the first electricity producing plant. The resources of the ITER organisation shall be from contributions of member states in agreed proportions. Each member including India shall contribute:

1) Equipments (in-kind contribution) to build the machine as agreed to in the Joint Implementation Agreement.

2) Staff to this project and

3)Cash contribution to meet the cost of some systems at the ITER International Organisation level.The approximate financial implication on the part of India is estimated at Rs.2500 crores over a period of ten years, which will be largely in the form of in-kind contribution.